MODERN TIMES

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New Haven

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Teacher Strike Gains Ground

by Joelle Dominski
Modern Times Staff

Spirit of striking teachers remains high despite harassment from the Board of Education with court orders and refusal to negotiate. The New Haven Federation of Teachers has gained growing support from the labor movement, parents and students in their effort to force the Board of Education to meet their demands.

The teachers have been working without a contract for 13 months. They are seeking pay increases, smaller class size and job security. Since the strike began on Tuesday, March 6, there have been nearly 80% of New Haven's teachers out of school.

THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BEFORE THE NEW HAVEN TEACHERS UNION VOTED TO RETURN TO WORK ON MARCH 14 "Providing the Board of Education would agree to negotiate round-the-clock".

At one of the daily Union solidarity rallys held at the Whalley Theater the motion was unanimously passed that "No one will go back to work unless we all go back together."

Students in near-empty Wilbur Cross High School watch from their classroom windows as their teachers picket. On Tuesday, March 6, the first day of the strike, only a handful of the more than 100 Cross teachers crossed the picket lines. (Modern Times photo by Nick Heyer)

In the face of court fines of $100 a day and / or six months imprisonment, 32 teachers served with injunctions were assured by the union that their fines would be paid. The executive board also announced that they were ready to go to jail if necessary.

The Board's refusal to negotiate with the teachers during the strike was based on a request for a 45 day "moratorium". According to Ronald O'Brien, president of the NHFT, "this request is hypocritical, there has been a 13 month moratorium." The union responded by seeking a court order to force the Board to negotiate.

"Teachers hate not getting pay-checks," begins a flier handed out to parents by the strikers. "They hate seeing 21,000 kids deprived of normal schooling and wondering what will happen to them as a result of this...Nor is it a joy to be threatened with jail and the permanent loss of jobs as well. But they will not be blackjacked into going back without a contract," the flier says.

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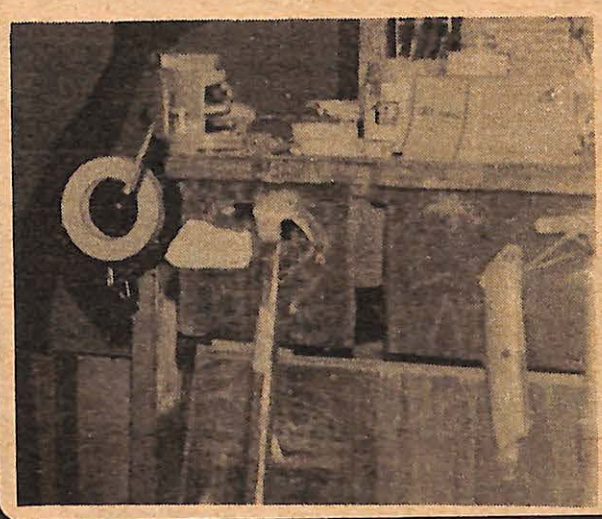

Daggett Street Artists page 7

Hospital Workers Net Healthy Victory

After a long hard organizing campaign, a jubilant group of hospital workers, including the author of this article, pose for photographer Alan Kay. The dietary workers of Yale New Haven Hospital were successful in electing Local 1199 to represent them.

by Ray Milici
Concerned Hospital Workers

It was a long time coming, but it came. On March 1, 1973, we won a union at Yale-New Haven Hospital after years of trying. A big victory for us. An embarrassing defeat for the "mighty" YNHH and their high priced Wall Street lawyers.

Of the 144 eligible workers in the Hospital's Dietary Department, 85 voted "yes" while only 47 voted "no". So the dietary workers won the right to be represented by Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers Union, AFL-CIO.

No one knows—except YNHH—how much their anti-union campaign cost. But we all know that Wall Street lawyers don't work for peanuts and the Post Office doesn't give away 8¢ stamps. No doubt their campaign cost thousands of dollars, money that could have been better spent on improving patient care, working conditions

see YNHH, page 3

Community Supports The Teachers

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On the picket line, teachers speak of how the demands of the union are necessary to improve the classroom situations that now exist, as well as to allow teachers enough income to keep their jobs. As the price of hamburger continues to rise, even the 4.5% increase above increments that the union is asking looks sparse.

The Board refused to move from their offer of 0.5% above increments until a week before the strike began, when they moved to 0.9%. Increments are yearly salary increases paid to teachers who stay in the school system.

Strike Brings Chaos

From the first day of the strike, chaos reigned inside the schools. Older students were used to supervise younger classes, public ads were run by the Board to attract anyone they could find to take a class for anywhere from $20 to $28 a day. The Federation of Teachers immediately called for the schools to be closed, because of inadequate staffing. The union also compiled a list of atrocities committed against students by the "substitutes." **One student was reportedly hit in the eye with a baseball bat, others were suspended and still others were arrested, during the first days of the strike.**

Because of the terrible conditions in the schools, referred to by the Board as "functioning normally," parents began to join the picket lines and demand that the schools be closed from the second day of the strike. Teachers and parents from Hooker, Brennan, Edgewood, and Beecher schools held house meetings to plan action together. Similar meetings were held in the West Hills and Hill areas.

Parents Support

One group of parents started a petition to the Board of Education in support of the union action. They said of the striking teachers, "We feel that their action does not indicate a lack of desire to continue to serve our children well, but rather, that you have forced them to desperate action by not giving them a satisfactory contract."

The petition also charged, **"We clearly recognize that the real intent of keeping schools open is to secure the $26,000 a day from the state and to force the teachers back to work."**

"We appeal to your conscience and ask you to stop misusing children, teachers and parents," the petition stated.

Student Support

Most parents stopped sending their children to school after the first day of the strike. In the high schools, attendance has been minimal. After an attempted walkout at Hillhouse High School, about 50 students picketed the Board of Education in solidarity with the union to demand that the schools be closed, and harassment of students end.

On the second day of the strike, Ronald O'Brien, president of the NHFT, announced to the cheering teachers who packed into the Whalley Theater, that they had received full backing from the Greater New Haven Central Labor Council.

He reported that the CLC vowed, "If one teacher is arrested, there will be hell to pay in New Haven." He said that the possibility of a mass strike in New Haven was mentioned.

In addition to support from the Central Labor Council, teachers from West Haven and Ansonia have joined the picket lines. At many schools, cafeteria workers have refused to cross the lines and have not gone in to work.

According to Don Lucenti, Business Agent of Council 4, American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, which represents the paraprofessionals, some paraprofessionals were ordered to do teacher duties, which is not in their contract. He threatened court action if the situation continued.

Above: Teachers held a mass meeting on March 12 and voted overwhelmingly to reject the Board of Ed's final offer. Unionist Matt Borenstein raises his fist in a strike cheer. Below: Parents, teachers, and students chant outside of Board of Ed Meeting same night after being refused admission. Hundreds were inside, though, who let the Board know how they felt.

(M-T photos by Sergio Verillo & Nick Heyer)

The New Haven Board of Education is going to great lengths to try and break the New Haven Federation of Teachers. Since the beginning of the strike the Board has used Channel 8 television to call for substitutes to scab and has received help in spreading rumors from various radio programs.

The Board has tried to confuse communication between the black community and the union to prevent support from black parents and teachers. At the solidarity rally on Thursday, March 8, O'Brien emphasized that "white and black parents and teachers have the same expectations and concluded with the slogan, 'Black and White unite and fight" to a large applause.

The Board also tried to confuse the issues of the strike by countering the strike vote published by the union before the strike, and continuing to counter the union's published number of teachers out on strike each day. According to Matt Borenstein, chairman of the Action Committee of the union, "We had teachers who knew the buildings arrive early and count all school employees under the NHFT contract who went in."

He said there was such a large discrepancy with the Board's figures that if that many more teachers were in the schools "they must have crawled in through a tunnel."

Six Items

When the teachers and the Board do return to the negotiating table, they will be discussing salary and six items including layoffs, increments for teachers on a maximum salary, the right for teachers who begin teaching within the first 10 days of the year to be hired as full-time, reduction in class size to 31 for K to 4, and 32 for grades 5 to 12, a union say over the qualifications for substitutes, and an agreement for pregnant teachers to apply time off to sick leave.

In addition to picketing at each school in the morning, teachers have held mass pickets at several schools in the afternoons. These actions have encouraged some teachers who were hesitant, to come out and join the strike.

Aldermen Turn Back Yale Expansion

by Andy Esposito
Modern Times Staff

By a vote of 15 to 10 the New Haven Board of Aldermen refused to accept the crumbs Yale threw them from its fiscal cake and rejected the university's proposal to build two new residential colleges at Whitney Avenue and Grove Street.

The Yale proposals had been under consideration since November by two special aldermanic committees chaired by Edward Piazza (D-15). Both committees and the City Plan Commission recommended rejection of the proposals.

Yale then attempted to make the project more appealing by slightly increasing the size of the crumbs offered the city. It's final offer included: 1) allowing all land under the building to be taxed and 2) a $200,000 "gift" to help build the "Arts Center Garage" to be located on the corner of Orange and Grove Streets. In a typical high-handed fashion Yale tried to coerce the Aldermen into accepting their offer with a "take it or leave it" ultimatum. Fortunately, the Aldermen would have none of Yale's threats.

The Yale tax formula would increase tax receipts by $28,000, hardly enough to compensate the city for the public services it would have to provide to the additional 500 students housed in the new colleges

If the Yale offer had been accepted, the working people of New Haven would have been placed in the position of subsidizing the education of wealthy Yale students. This situation has existed for too long. The rejection of Yale's offer should signal the start of an era when Yale is forced to pay its way and make a true contribution to the citizens of New Haven.

Piazza, DeLisle Oppose

Opposition to the plan came primarily from "regular Democrats" closely allied with the Guida Administration.

The bulk of the debate against Yale was carried by Ed Piazza (D-15). He accused Yale of deliberatly allowing the property on the proposed construction site to run down by refusing to extend tenant leases. Piazza also pointed out that the colleges had been in the planning stage for a number of years and now suddenly the city is pressured into making a fast decision.

Also speaking against Yale was Alan DeLisle who seemed to be most worried about the traffic control problem posed by the proposed facilities. DeLisle also cited the lack of citizen participation in the planning of the colleges.

Price, Logue Pro-Yale

The pro-Yale forces were led by Frank Logue (D-18) and Lisa Price (D-1). One observer muttered loudly "Under the surface of every University-connected liberal beats a heart of true blue–Yale blue that is."

Initially explaining how he agonized over his objection to Yale's original plan, Alderman Logue was now happy that he could support his former school. Logue then proceeded to deliver the official Yale line about jobs being generated (true only in the construction phase) and how the additional students would spend freely and, thus, be of great economic benefit to the people of New Haven.

See YALE EXPANSION, page 6

Community Note

The Brothers of Alpha Phi Omega, Xi Phi Chapter at the University of New Haven will be sponsoring a blood drive at the University's Student Center Lounge on Monday, March 19, 1973 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Anyone who has not donated blood since January 22nd and who can meet a few medical requirements is urged to donate.

Labor Notes

WAITRESSES BENEFIT FROM TIPPING DECISION

In a precedent-setting case challenging a provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act a U.S. court of appeals has ruled that a Louisville, Ky. drive-in restaurant owner must restore almost $8,000 to 46 employees whom the Labor Dept. charged had been under-paid. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati upheld a lower court decision affirming the legality of the so-called "tip provision" of the Act. This provision permits employers to credit tips as wages in an amount up to 50% of the federal minimum wage, currently set at $1.60 an hour. When the employee's tips fall short of the amount credited, however, the employer must make up the difference. The suit was filed by the Labor Dept.

SARGENT WORKERS ACCEPT SETTLEMENT

Over 800 production workers voted unanimously to return to work at the Sargent Company on March 12. The members of Local 243 of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine workers will receive an increase of $0.21/hour the first year, and $0.18/hour the second and last year of the contract, with a 7¢ per hour maximum cost of living escalator. Average wage at Saggent's is $3.82. Union officials felt that there was still "a ways to go" in certain areas such as the pension fund, but that the overall contract provided a decent settlement.

The acceptance of the contract followed a three-day "workman's holiday" when all production workers stayed out of work while their committee members negotiated. The previous three-year contract expired one week earlier.

JUST TWO WEEKS

Chicago teachers won most of their demands as their two week strike ended last month. As an encouraging note for New Haven teachers, we present the demands that the won:

A 2.5 percent salary increase, which had been promised, but not paid, last year;

A doubling of the number of duty-free preparation period for all elementary school teachers--from two to four per week;

A shortened work year--from 40 weeks to 39--with no loss in pay, amounting to another 2.5 percent salary gain;

Restoration of 150 adjustment teachers and 60 assistant principals, eliminated a year ago; and

Extension of existing class-size limits to the remaining 150 of the city's 600 "regular" schools.

Union Strikes 'In Disgust' At Short-Changing Company

by Henry Tamarin
Modern Times Staff

At 3:30 a.m. on March 9, 500 union members of Local 8718 of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic workers struck "in disgust" when the management team for the United Nuclear Corp. broke off negotiations and left the bargaining table.

At issue is the manner in which the UNC is phasing out their New Haven plant to move to their new Montville facility. Union members feel that they are being grossly short-changed by the company's pension and severance pay proposals.

The company, formerly owned by the Olin Group, produces fuel for nuclear submarines. Over 90% of the employees here will be unable to make the transfer to Montville, because of the 120 mile commute and the lack of adequate housing rental in the new area.

Union demands center on an adequate pension plan and severance pay offer. The company's current maximum proposal covers only those employees who have reached the age of 65 and have worked 12 years. At best the lump sum payment would be less then a year's salary for the lowest paid production worker. The union is demanding that the retirement age be lowered form 65 to 55, so that more people will be eligible for the existing plan with the maximum benefits.

Also in dispute is the question of guaranteed severance pay. Employees who have worked less than ten years but more than six will lose the most. The limits proposed by the company are one week of severance pay for each year of employment up to six years, and 13 weeks of severance pay after ten years. The union feels this is completely unacceptable considering the area job market.

Parents Ministry Celebrates

"Survival and Progress in '73" is the slogan for the next year of the Fair Haven Parent's Ministry. The slogan indicates the difficulties faced by community organizations due to Nixon budget cuts, but the determination to continue expanding its work. The Ministry celebrated its 7th Anniversary at a dance held at the Yale Divinity School on Thursday, March 8. The program featured Andrew Young, U.S. Congressman from Georgia, musical selections by the Gibson Choral Community Choir, and dancing to the music of "Julius and the Soul Corrupters".

(Photo Courtesy of the Fair Haven Parent's Ministry)

Insilco Workers Vow To Win Their Long Fight

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

In a year when economic crisis and conflict seem to be mushrooming, we in Southern Connecticut find ourselves right in the middle of it all. Since February 19, over 90% of the 2,500 workers in the bargaining unit at Insilco have been on a hard strike.

Hard times have hit the Wallingford-Meriden area as Local 7770 of the United Steelworkers of American, AFL-CIO, called a strike after nearly four years of battling to organize the workers and win a first contract.

Hank Novak, union vice-president, says, "I don't see any end yet. This company doesn't know how to treat people like human beings." Insilco is the 14th largest corporation in Connecticut. It operates the International Silver Company, the Meriden Rolling Mills and the Eyelet Speciality Co., all in the Wallingford-Meriden area.

A Brief History

The history of the union's 4 year struggle is so typical of what it takes to build organizations of working people that **Modern Times** thought it worthwhile to print it here briefly.

July, 1969 – Steelworkers begin organizing campaign at Insilco.

April, 1970 – Steelworkers petition NLRB for election to let workers vote on whether to have union.

August, 1970 – Steelworkers win the NLRB election.
–Insilco files objections to election.

December, 1971 – Steelworkers gain official certification as NLRB overrules. the Insilco objections.
–Insilco then refuses to recognize or bargain with the union.

April, 1972 – Local 7770 takes strike vote to force Insilco recognition and bargaining.

May, 1972 – Insilco finally signs recognition agreement and negotiations begin.

February, 1973 – After months of stalled negotiations, union members go out on strike.

There are many issues – wages, job security, the union demand for a union shop and others. But it is also a strike to show how determined the workers at Insilco are to win their long fight.

Helen Zelinski hands out leaflets as part of the union's organizing efforts at Insilco. Photo courtesy of AFL-CIO Vanguard)

YNHH Union Win Makes Bosses Ill

continued from page 1

more and more dietary workers joined the union. So the hospital administrators used every possible trick and gimmick to beat our efforts to win union representation through an election among the workers.

First there was a dispute over which dietary workers would be eligible to vote in the election. Of the 200 dietary workers, only 144 were certified eligible. The Connecticut State Labor Board had decided that people who worked less than 20 hours per week were ineligible. The Hospital hires many people to work 15 hours because then it does not have to provide the usual firnge benefits. So these people, who need the union, were not allowed to vote at all.

YNHH carried on a vicious anti-union drive. Even before the Labor Board ordered the election, the administrators called workers to a meeting where they were urged not to join the union. After the election was set, the campaign got worse.

More meetings were called. Workers reported being told, "You know what you have now. Don't take any chances. Vote "no" against Local 1199." Everyday for two weeks, the Hospital sent dietary workers letters. Some were "love letters" from Mr. Womer, the Hospital Director.

There then were the leaflets designed to scare workers. Womer wouldn't dare put his signature on any of them. On one leaflet YNHH put together newspaper articles about Local 1199 strikes taken from the **New York Times, New Haven Register,** and **Modern Times.** The idea was to scare workers into thinking that the big bad union would force them to go on strike. In still other leaflets, YNHH tried to scare workers about paying union dues.

Then posters appeared in work areas showing workers how to vote "no". They even gave out stamped post-cards to workers encouraging them to ask questions about the union which the Hospital would then answer.

It was quite a campaign, but the workers answer was just 85 "yes" to 47 "no". On March 1, the Hospital and its lawyers found out that the workers are not as stupid as they thought.

We have a strong bunch of people in our union now. Our work is cut out for us. We must build this union, elect a strong negotiating team and go in there to win a decent contract for the workers. We know it will be hard, but we are determined to win a contract with improved working conditions and substantially higher wages.

Editorial

Hospital Win Boosts Our Hopes

The struggle to change our society is usually very difficult and often very discouraging, As working people, we find ourselves faced up against institutions of tremendous power and permanence. We often feel that the odds—of even a small victory—are impossible. So much the greater, therefore, is our feeling of pride and sense of worth when we are are able to win.

On March 1, 1973, the Dietary workers at Yale-New Haven Hospital won a long and difficult battle. For over three years, they have been trying to organize a union at one of the richest and most powerful institutions in this country.

They won because they refused to give in to their own impatience and discouragment at having to fight so long.

They won because they refused to be taken in by the slick lies and propaganda from the Yale public relations machine.

They won because they refused to let themselves be split by the race, sex and age divisions so strong in our society.

They won because they believed it was time to change the 19th Century working conditions at their job.

They won, above all, because they knew their cause was right.

We at **Modern Times** take this opportunity to congratulate the Concerned Hospital Workers and the Local 1199 Organizing Committee.

We hope that the Yale-New Haven Dietary workers will be able to keep their union strong. We also hope their victory will be an inspiration to the workers at Yale-New Haven and to working people around the city. The lesson of this victory is that there are no shortcuts to change. It is a long and difficult process, but it can be won. Not only the little battles, but the big ones too.

Anti-Labor Laws Loom Ahead

There are very disturbing reports that certain state legislators are drawing up a bill which would provide heavy automatic penalties for any strike by public employees. Under this bill striking unions would automatically lose dues deduction privileges and would be automatically decertified, that is, would no longer be considered the employees bargaining agent. Striking public employees would face automatic loss of accumulated vacation and sick leave benefits and teachers would automatically lose tenure, their guarantee of job security.

These penalties would be *in addition* to any fines or jail sentences which courts currently are allowed to impose on striking public employees. What these proposals amount to is a blatant attempt to break all public employee unions and to force public employees to accept any contract terms dictated to them by City Halls or Boards of Education.

The politicians who support these kinds of proposals parade as the guardians of the tax dollar and the champions of efficient public services. Actually their concern for taxation is a sham. The only thing they guard is the principle that the rich not be adequately taxed to finance public services. And all they champion is the bankruptcy of our cities and the decline of our schools, hospitals and transportation.

Vicious proposals like these have been defeated in the past, but only after angry outcries and hard lobbying by organized labor. Once more we must sound the alert and prepare to meet the challenge. A call to a state assemblyperson or senator from you or your union officers might seem like a little thing, but then again it might make all the difference.

Write On

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, March 6, 1973, the New Haven Board of Education hired several Southern Connecticut State College students, many of them freshmen and sophomores, as substitutes for New Haven teachers out on strike.

The Southern Connecticut Faculty Federation, Local 1970, AFT, deplores this action of the New Haven Board of Education in the strongest possible terms. We object to the Board's attempts to turn college students into scabs.

As teachers, we resent the use of these students as pawns in an unscrupulous power play by the Board. We are disturbed by the callous attitude of a Board which is willing to pit students against teachers, a Board which, in the difficult and touchy situation that prevails in New Haven, places unprepared college freshmen and sophomores in classrooms without supervision, contrary to established guidelines and policies, and without regard to any considerations of education, ethics or safety. Events on Tuesday at some New Haven middle schools and high schools bear witness to the dangers inherent in the Board's irresponsible action.

As unionists, we find reprehensible the Board's use of students as strike-breakers against teachers who are struggling for improved conditions of employment in the schools, struggling for benefits which the students themselves will enjoy when they enter the *teaching profession. What can we expect* in the way of mutual respect and professional relations between a student-teacher who scabs and a union teacher who is called upon to serve as his master teacher? The Board's action in this instance, can, without exaggeration, be described as poisoning the educational well.

We suggest to the Board that S.C.S.C.'s students are here for their education, not to pull the Board's chestnuts out of the fire. We suggest that the Board turn to serious negotiations conducted in good faith around the bargaining table to settle its differences with its teachers. Which, of course, is what it should have done from the outset.

Sincerely,

Irving Leskowitz, President
Local 1970, AFT, AFL-CIO

To the Editor:

I am opposed to amnesty. Those who have trampled on, made a mockery of, and knowingly and willfully violated the U.S. Constitution, should not be given amnesty unless they, as good Americans, have first fulfilled their obligations to this once great nation of ours.

The criminal acts that they have committed are too monstrous to be simply left alone and forgotten.

Without declaring war they have violated our Constitution and also violated the 1954 Geneva Agreement in Indochina, causing the deaths of 45,933 American servicemen, 153,300 badly wounded, another 150,316 less seriously wounded, 1,340 missing, plus 10,298 noncombat deaths (not counting the millions of Vietnamese casualties), at a cost of $105 billion which could have gone to all our domestic programs that are currently going down the drain because of "lack of funds."

It seems to me that with this kind of criminal record it would hardly seem unjust to have these criminals serve in the Peace Corps or some other kind of humanitarian projects to help atone for at least some of these great crimes.

This, of course, would include President Nixon (the other three guilty Presidents are no longer with us), all the lying politicians, generals, admirals, corporate leaders and other big business leaders and big newspaper editors who have supported this criminality for so many terrible years.

On the other hand, there were millions of ordinary Americans who have demonstrated against this unjust war and have finally forced the President to end it and to bring back our POW's.

But the most heroic Americans were those who sacrificed themselves for peace, such as the 10,000 who are in U.S. prisons for refusing to be drafted and the 70,000 who went into foreign exile, and the many thousands of GI's who struggled against the war within the ranks of the armed forces.

Write to your representatives in Washington demanding that these heroic war resisters be allowed to come home to their families so that we can all begin rebuilding this shamefully degenerated country of ours.

Sincerely,

Mike F. Holodnak

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Jim Jordan, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florrie Ricciuti, Bob Sherry, Henry Tamarin, Ross Thompson, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff Tony Della-Ventura, Rusty Foster

Experts Tell Modern Times Benefit

Nixon Asks For Power To Suspend Constitution

Nixon's Assault on Freedom
by Stan Heller& Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

"We must have this power, no matter what the Constitution says."

"You are asking for the power to suspend a provision of the Constitution?" the judge asked.

"Yes, we feel we must have the power when the security of the country is at stake."

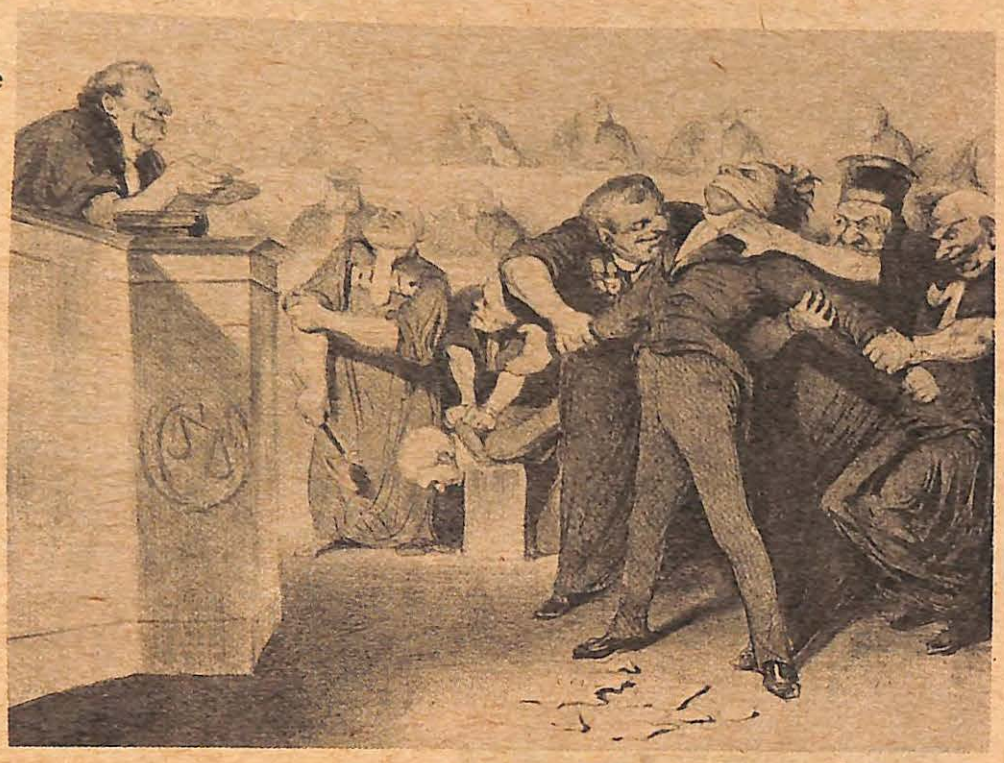
The speaker was Robert Mardian former head of the Internal Security division of the Justice Department, who was requesting that evidence from illegal wiretapping be permitted in court. The Mitchell wiretap doctrine—in which the government for the first time admitted the use of wiretapping without a warrant—was described by Arthur Kinoy, Rutgers University law professor, at a benefit meeting for Modern Times March 2.

Kinoy and three other professors and journalists discussed "Nixon's Assault on Freedom" before a gathering of 165 New Haveners. The other panelists included Thomas Emerson, a Yale University law professor and expert on the first ammendment; Samuel Popkin, a Harvard professor recently jailed for refusing to reveal confidential sources in the Pentagon papers case; and Nat Hentoff, a New York journalist.

Tom Emerson set the stage for the discussion of what is happening to freedom of speech and freedom of the press under the Nixon administration. He outlined a model for a healthy system of free expression, citing ways in which the government can alter such a system. This might include both direct suppression through special laws and interpretations of legal doctrine and the indirect "chilling" effects of losing jobs and government benefits.

The leaders are frightened, he pointed out, because of their inability to solve any of the problems of working people. "Their response is the mailed fist."

Kinoy concluded that the ultimate answer to this desertion of constitutionally guaranteed liberties is "the strength of the people's organizations fighting to protect our rights."



Arthur Kinoy captivated the audience with his tales of the legal precedents being established during Nixon's two terms. "I'm scared and I'm excited," he began. "The powers led by Nixon have *decided in the most awesome way to experiment* with whether they can abandon the most elementary guarantees of liberties."

No Rights With A Grand Jury

Samuel Popkin is widely known now as the first American scholar jailed for refusing to reveal his sources of information. *"I went to jail because I would not tell the names of the military officers* who told me who wrote the Pentagon papers. The grand jury didn't really care if I testified. They put me in jail to show they could jail me whenever they wanted to. To this day the government has never said in court what that grand jury was investigating."

"You have no rights with a grand jury," Popkin said, "jail is nothing compared to it." The procedure consists of a closed-door questioning where only the witness, the citizens of the jury, and the prosecuter are present. There is no judge and no lawyer. For a period of 18 months he was called back for sessions ranging from 40 minutes to 5 hours. "To this day I don't know what they wanted from me and why."

As long as journalists and scholars can be questioned by grand juries without any limits, a free press will mean nothing but "angry editorials with no information," Popkin stated. The future of civil liberties rests, he thinks, on solving the problem of crime. "How long will we have civil liberties if the choice is between civil liberties and law and order?" he asked in concluding his remarks.

Reporters Need Shield Law

Nat Hentoff focused on the need for an "absolute shield law" to protect reporters from having to disclose confidential sources of information. He said, "You cannot function as an investigative reporter if you can't say 'I won't give your name to anyone'." If reporters must risk jail to write their books, they will back off from the risky and vital stories.

"Of course we must not scare ourselves to death," he added, "or we will paralyze our will." Nevertheless, "we are at a crisis, I don't believe the battle has yet been lost, but there is a danger *that we are moving toward post-constitutional America."*

Vietnamese Struggle Will Spread To U.S.

by P. J. O'Connell

The tinder of renewed conflict lies scattered all over Vietnam. The Paris ceasefire agreement has only dampened the flames for a time and given respite for some victims of the conflagration of war. The flashpoints of future struggle are inherent in the class structure of South Vietnamese society under the dictatorial regime of President Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon.

The Saigon regime has based itself upon big businessmen in the cities and large landlords in the countryside. The revolutionary forces have based themselves upon the workers and peasants. The businessmen and landlords want profits. The workers and peasants want higher wages, lower rents, land reform, control of the skyrocketing cost of living, and an end to usury, speculation, and the hoarding of vital goods and necessities. Such a situation is inherently unstable. One or the other of these two class forces must eventually predominate. The outcome can only be decided by struggle. The words of Lincoln at the time of the American civil war are relevant to the Vietnamese civil war: "A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free....It will become all one thing, or all the other." The repressiveness of the Thieu regime will inevitably evoke resistance in the 1970s just as the repressiveness of Thieu's predecessor Ngo Dinh Diem did in the 1950s and 1960s.

Struggles Over Issues

Literally millions of Vietnamese, most peasants forced into cities or refugee camps, have been dislocated by the war with its destruction of the country's small amount of industry and its massive disruption of agriculture, the backbone of the nation. These millions want to return to their homes in the countryside, most of which is under the control of the revolutionary forces. Thieu, in violation of the ceasefire agreement, is attempting to prevent their return and keep them under his control so that he can manipulate this captive vote in discussions about the elections that the Paris accord calls for. The accord, however, sets no timetable for the hundreds of thousands of political prisoners in Thieu's jails and for the right of freedom of political action for all organizations outlawed by the Saigon regime.

These fights will lead to clashes with the U.S. because Saigon's apparatus of military and police repression is sustained by the White House and the Pentagon. American ground troops have been forced out, but they still surround Vietnam from other countries; bombers are at the ready; and aid and advisers for Thieu are still pouring in along with branches of American corp-

elections or for the creation of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord that is supposed to supervise them.

The Council was envisaged in the agreement as a three-part body consisting of the Communists, the representatives of the Saigon regime, and "neutralists." Thieu, however, declared on the week the agreement was signed that he would "never collaborate with the Communists." In other words, he will make it impossible for the Council to carry out its assigned task of promoting "the two South Vietnamese parties' implementation of the Agreement."

In addition to the issues of the right of return and free elections, mass struggle in both the cities and countryside will center about the fight for the release of the orations. The brink of war is never far from where Truman-Eisenhower-Kennedy-Johnson stood. Just as it will not be far from Kennedy or Agnew or Connally or whoever else may succeed Nixon.

Back From the Brink

How to end this brinksmanship? The only way to end it for good and all is to recognize that U.S. policy has the same roots as Saigon's policy--the attempt of one class to maintain its domination over another and the ensuing resistance of the oppressed class. In the U.S. the dominant class is the industrialists and financiers of the transnational corporations and the military-industrial complex. The motive of this class is the making of big profits--by any means necessary. In this aim the President of the United States is but their willing tool--they finance him--just as the President of South Vietnam is the tool of the businessmen and landlords there.

Big profits can be made from controlling the natural resources, cheap labor, expanding markets, investment opportunities, and strategic locations of developing nations. So Truman intervened in Greece, Turkey, and Korea; Eisenhower in Iran, Guatemala, and Lebanon; Kennedy in Laos, Cuba, and the Congo; Johnson in the Dominican Republic; Nixon in Cambodia and Laos and all of them in Vietnam.

The class they seek to dominate is the workers of the world. And they fight on two fronts. At home Nixon's newest war is against labor and the poor as he freezes wages and cuts health, education, welfare, and antipoverty spending. Nixon is just following the orders of his big business bosses, and he does it at the expense of the American people as well as the Vietnamese people. Vietnam (because of the revolutionary resistance of its people) caused a drain on U.S. resources rather than providing the loot the American ruling class had hoped for. While U.S. resources were being drained in Vietnam, Western European, Japanese, Soviet, and Chinese economies grew steadily. Now Nixon must lower the cost of production at home in order to make American goods more competitive, and he chooses to keep profits and prices and rents higher than ever before, while cutting real wages and spending on social needs.

Wars like Vietnam will really end only when the oppresed class-labor and the poor in the American class struggle fights back harder politically in the cities and countryside of the United States. "I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free....It will become all one thing, or all the other."

Next: Future Directions for the Peace Movement.

Taxes: Those With The Least Pay The Most

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

It's tax time. While most of us struggle with our income tax forms, bureaucrats in Hartford and New Haven are fiddling with the tax problems of the state and city budgets. All the different tax collectors are busy collecting.

When you add up the total take for an American family, the tax collectors walk off with quite a bundle. The tax table in the box on this page gives us a nice summary of the total tax bills paid by American households.

If you study it carefully, the table reveals many facts. It was prepared by the Bureau of the Census in Washington for use by Congressmen, Senators and others who should be concerned with how our tax system affects the people.

The left-hand column lists American households according to the yearly income they earned in 1968. The other columns show how much of its income each group of households had to pay in 1968. The column labelled "All taxes" should catch your eye first. It shows that households earnings under $2,000 per year pay a total of $1,000 of that in taxes.

That is a higher share of income paid out to the tax collectors than any other group of families has to pay. It is no wonder then that the people in this lowest income group of households need to turn to unemployment compensation or food stamps or welfare for some time during the year just in order to survive.

Compare the four columns in the right-hand side of the table. Notice that the "Federal Income Tax" column gets higher as you go from poorer to richer households, while the columns under "Social Security Tax," "Property Tax," and "Sales Tax" all show lower tax bites as you go from poorer to richer households.

This proves that while the income tax takes more from those who have more, all our other basic taxes take more from those who have less. No wonder working people have long and bitterly attacked property and sales taxes as particularly unjust.

If you think about it, this table suggests some important possibilities. If, instead of property and sales taxes, we had graduated income taxes in our states, most working people would end up paying lower taxes, most rich people ($25,000 and over) would pay more and the state could be left with the exact same amount of taxes collected. The question of *who* pays taxes is just as important as *how much* tax revenue the government can collect.

It Could Change

For 80 per cent of working Americans, the Social Security (or FICA) deduction on your paycheck could be less if the 20 per cent of salaried executives, managers, foremen, etc. had to pay more because they earned more.

Heavy public pressure by a united community of working people can force governments to change unfair tax systems. That kind of effort can do as much for a family budget as a labor union does when it wins higher pay and better working conditions from employers. It's something to think about – especially now at tax time.

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME PAID AS TAX, BY INCOME LEVEL, 1968

	All taxes	Federal		State and local	
		Income tax	*Soc. Sec. tax*	*Property tax*	*Sales tax*
Under $ 2,000	50.0	1.2	7.6	16.2	6.6
$ 2,000 - 4,000	34.6	3.5	6.5	7.5	4.9
4,000 - 6,000	31.0	5.3	6.7	4.8	4.1
6,000 - 8,000	30.1	6.5	6.8	3.8	3.6
8,000 - 10,000	29.2	7.4	6.2	3.6	3.3
10,000 - 15,000	29.8	8.7	5.8	3.6	2.9
15,000 - 25,000	30.0	9.9	4.6	3.6	2.4
25,000 - 50,000	32.8	12.9	2.5	2.7	1.8
50,000+	45.0	19.8	1.0	2.0	1.1

Brass Tacks

Pressmen Press For Better Conditions

by John Selvaggio
Based on an interview with Modern Times

I work as a pressman for a company that manufactures and prints cardboard. For over a year I have been actice as a shop steward and safety committeeman trying to improve working conditions at my plant. I hope that my experiences will be of use to others trying to do the same.

Some of the major problems in our plant are noise, dust solvents and accidents in which workers get crushed or suffer broken bones. To learn more about solving these problems, I joined a community/labor occupational health group. This group – which just recently won sponsorship from the New Haven Central Labor Council – includes trade unionists and people with training in law, medicine, public health, ecology and sociology.

To educate myself and fellow workers, I read about the federal occupational law and about the technical and medical aspects of industrial hazards. I also attended conferences sponsored by the Medical Committee on Human Rights, the New Haven Central Labor Council, and the conference of my own International, the IPPAU.

Conditions Poor

The conditions in our plant were so bad that one of the workers filled out a federal complaint form and sent it to Harold Smith, the U.S. Labor Department regional occupational health administrator in Hartford. Responding to the complaint, federal inspectors came and issued 28 citations to the company for violating the law. Two months later there was a follow-up inspection showing little progress and a second ammended citation was issued which read essentially the same as the first. Since then, the company has sent reports on its progress to Hartford, but I haven't seen them. Harold Smith will not mail them to me and I have to find time to go to Hartford to get them in person. It seems as though he is making information more difficult to obtain than he has to.

In the past, the company has been uncooperative in improving working conditions *except* when threatened with the law or by loss of production. When the hot water in our washroom was shut off for two weeks, the union had to threaten to fill out another federal complaint form before it was turned on again. In another case, the union threatened to shut down the machines if the air temperature in the pressroom went below 60 degrees F. As a result the company remedied the situation by repairing the broken windows which had been knocked out due to lack of air conditioning the summer before.

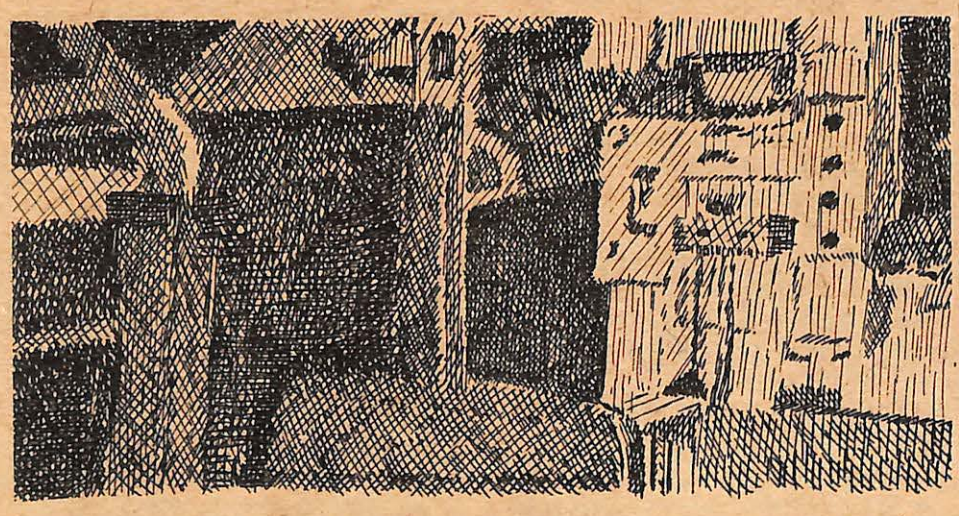
Now that the company knows our safety committee means business, it has become more cooperative. It has appointed a safety committee to meet with the union and is slowly installing ducting to remove oxy-dry powder dust from the pressroom.

Slow to Act

Unfortunately, my own local union leadership of the International Brotherhood of Pressmen has been slow to act on job hazards. For example, our local president refused to endorse "hearing screening tests", at $1 a head, which had been arranged by my occupational health and safety group. Our plant is noisy enough to produce hearing loss, but out of a total of 56 men in our local only 6 got tested. One of the 6, an older worker with 20 years in the plant didn't pass the test and got referred for further testing.

Although management and lack of governmental enforcement of the occupational health and safety laws are most responsible for the neglect which murders 15,000 workers a year and shortens the life of millions of others, we in unions have to take some responsibility We need to elect strong trade union leadership that will educate the rank and file in safe work practice and challenge management reluctance to improve conditions. It is also important for unions to build ties to the community to take advantage of the expertise of people sympathetic to labor health issues. After all, why should management have a monopoly on the knowledge we need to protect ourselves?

My advice to my fellow workers is to be firm with management and not to let their delaying tactics wear you down. Learn all about labor law and don't hesitate to cite it in your relations with management.



Yale Expansion Rolled Back

Continued from page 2

Lisa Price, whose husband is currently being considered for a tenured position at Yale, said that the opponents of the plan were overly emotional. She went on to state that Yale was "setting a significant precedent in making concessions."

Most of the Board obviously found the arguments about economic benefits and concessions unconvincing. The vote was 15 against Yale, 10 for Yale and two abstentions. One of those who abstained was William Jones (D-22). Several people found his abstention surprising in the light of his recent State of the Black Community speech. Since that speech was devoted to the many concerns of the black community in New Haven, why, they asked, did Jones fail to vote on such an important issue?

As the Aldermanic session was breaking up, both proponents and opponents of the Yale plan expressed the hope that Yale would resubmit a more viable plan in the near future.

How the Aldermen Voted:

Ward	Alderman	Vote
1	Lisa K. Price	Pro-Yale
2	Joseph P. Bartlett	Pro-Yale
3	Vincent E. Mauro	Anti-Yale
4	Gail Coleman	Absent
5	Walter Murray	Anti-Yale
6	Louis A. Aceto	Anti-Yale
7	James E. Perillo	Pro-Yale
8	Louise DeLauro	Anti-Yale
9	Arnold J. Cusano	Absent
10	Pasquale J. Fasulo	Anti-Yale
11	Jack Penders	Anti-Yale
12	Alan D. DeLisle	Anti-Yale
13	Patricia A. Moore	Anti-Yale
14	Michael V. Natalino	Anti-Yale
15	Edward F. Piazza	Anti-Yale
16	Richard F. Rubino	Anti-Yale
17	Henry P. Dynia	Anti-Yale
18	Frank Logue	Pro-Yale
19	Leroy Gomes	Pro-Yale
20	Fred Wilson, Jr.	Anti-Yale
21	Eldridge E. Davis, Jr.	Absent
22	William Jones	Abstain
23	Melvin A. Esdaile	Abstain
24	Joseph J. Carusone	Pro-Yale
25	Ralph Benevento	Anti-Yale
26	Aaron W. Aronow	Pro-Yale
27	James O. Jones	Pro-Yale
28	Stuart Miller	Anti-Yale
29	Rosalind Berman	Pro-Yale
30	Munsey Epstein	Pro-Yale

Daggett Street Group Makes Room For The Arts

Al Mortali is just finishing a painting that extends to the floor. He is one of ten artists forming the Daggett Street 10. (MT photo by Patti Miller)

by Patti Miller
Modern Times Staff

There is an old building on Daggett Street which has in recent years been vacated by the small shops that once occupied it and taken over by city artists. 75 Daggett Street is now a center of studios and workplaces for many New Haven residents involved in all aspects of the arts. It has "become a lively community of creative artists concerned with the social and artistic life of the contemporary artist... " said Jack Smith of Daggett Street Artworks 10.

Daggett Street Artworks 10 is a group of 10 artists who have their studios in this loft building and who formed a group to offer each other support and to work together to "foster the arts in New Haven".

According to Jack Smith, the goals of the group are threefold : to make contemporary art work available to be seen throughout the state; to join with the performing arts and other art forms in new directions, and new ideas in presentation of the arts to the public; to formulate new philosophical, moral, and social commitments felt by the individual artist.

New Haven Hard On Artists

*The history of art groups in New Ha*ven is not a very good one. There have been a few attempts by artists to form groups and work together, but most attemps have failed. The Daggett Street Artworks 10 looks like it's working out. They are members of the Arts Council of Greater New Haven, and are working on, among other things, improving the position of young artists in New Haven.

Jack Smith thinks that New Haven should be a thriving center for the Arts. Because of all the colleges there are thousands of students in New Haven. The city makes a lot of money from these students, but does nothing to help any of them, especially the artists among them. The "gallery scene" is very bad in New Haven. Galleries aren't able to survive and artists have a difficult time trying to show their work. The Daggett Street group is working to change all that.

Jack Smith has ideas about how the city could help young artists through the period of transition right after college. *The Arts council could perhaps make* funds available for people to help pay for their workplaces and supplies. More space could be provided for studios all around the city. Smith said, "The cord is cut when you leave school, and students are on their own. Most artists don't survive that two year period of transition." He feels that it is the responsibility of the community to help these artists to survive.

Showing Contemporary Art

The artists who have had shows at area colleges are presently showing at the office of Gloria Schaffer, Secretary of the State, and will be showing in the near future at Southern Connecticut State College. They are experimenting with new ways to present their artwork. Not all of the artists in the group produce art that can be hung and looked at. Some are involved in film making, some in the dramatic arts, some are sculptors. These art form sometimes require more activity on the part of the observer than just looking. The group is trying to find ways to make their exhibits more of a participatory experience.

Working With Others

The group is also working with other artists in the city. Hammer, a group which is involved in the conceptual arts, works with them. Their art is an event which they get involved in rather than something they make. For example, both groups sponsored an evening in the Arts this past January, and Hammer made the coat room an event. They wrapped coats instead of hanging them. There was music and special lighting in the room, and they arranged the packaged coats aesthetically. Other artists worked in the studios and put on an evening in the arts for New Haven's Art Community. (It couldn't be a public event because of Fire Laws.)

Formulating New Commitments

The group, by general consensus, decided not to show in competetive show with entry fees and prizes. They feel that artists shouldn't win each other's money. The way these shows are run, the prize money comes from the entrance fee, which is paid by every one who wants to enter, whether their work is ultimately shown or not. As Smith put it, "It's reprehensible."

The members of the group are Skip Vaughn, photographer; Jack Smith, painter from Southern Connecticut State College Art Department; Al Mortali, graduate of Hartford Art School and Southern Connecticut, a painter and part-time worker at Mattatuck C.C. in Waterbury; Peter Erskine, sculptor with the new arts high school in New Haven; Mary Fussell, a graduate of Boston Museum School and former student of "Red Grooms" of New York; Mal Luber, painter and head of the Art Department at South Central Community College in New Haven; Paul Simon, aculptor and head of the Art Department at Mattatuck C.C. in Waterbury; George Harrington, painter from Springfield, now at Southern Connecticut State College; George Thompson, painter who studied at Paier School of Art in New Haven; and sculptor David Acheson, recent Yale Art School graduate.

The group welcomes visitors, and tours of the building can be arranged for interested people.

Citizens Capsize Yale Rowing Course

Juan Trippe, former President of Pan-American World Airlines (guess how those rowers are flying), former trustee of Yale University, and present trustee of the National Rowing Foundation, is now promoting the rowing course which would eat up a good portion of Edgewood Park. His interests are clearly NOT those of New Haven residents who want to enjoy the park as it is now. (Photo from "The Proposal for Participation in the Establishment of the Endowment Fund for the National Rowing Course")

The controversial proposal to build a 1½ mile rowing course in West River Park faces a new obstacle.

In early November, the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) declared portions of the park a "tidal wetland". This means that the City of New Haven, will have to obtain a permit from the DEP before Juan Trippe's International Rowing Course Foundation can begin the destruction of the Park.

An attempt by the City to apply for a permit was blocked by the Edgewood Park Committee. Attorney Richard Hershatter, representing the citizens' group, argued at a December 21st court hearing that the proposed City application violated a September understanding between the City and the citizens' group. Judge John Bracken agreed, temporarily frustrating the City's desire to help Juan Trippe build a rowing lagoon for his alma mater, Yale.

Attorney Hershatter is optimistic about the chances of saving West River and Edgewood Parks. **However, the City has been persistent in its efforts to give the parkland to Juan Trippe, and constant vigilance is essential.** So is money for court expenses. For more information and to help with contributions of time and money, contact:

Edgewood Park Committee
c/o Naomi Shaiken
59 Alston Avenue
New Haven, Ct. (389-9150)

On The Job Better Days Are Coming To Hospital

by Mrs. Equator McCoy

Mrs. Equator McCoy, happy after the successful election at Yale-New Haven Hospital of Local 1199 Hospital Workers to represent the dietary workers in the Memorial Unit. In the accompanying article, she describes her work and her hopes for the future.

M-T Photo by Sergio Verillo

I work at Yale-New Haven Hospital in the main kitchen of the Memorial Unit. I've worked there four years. I work in the bake shop as a baker's helper. Five people work there regularly when no one is off. My job involves helping with putting up the baked food for the patients and the two cafeterias. We have one baker and two assistants and they make up the cakes and cookies and pies and I help distribute it to the centralized tray service for patients and the cafeterias.

On Sundays just one person works there. There's no cooking – they're supposed to get everything ready beforehand. We make sure the right amount is there and send it out. On Wednesdays and the Sundays I work I start at 6 o'clock and get off at 2:30. I get up some mornings at 4:00 a.m. so I can cook a little fresh food for my husband before going to work.

I enjoy it. One reason is because I like to cook. And also I have the satisfaction of knowing I'm helping somebody when I fix for the patients. Sometimes when you're kind of tired the eight hours seem like forever. Other times when you're relaxed and not too tired the time passes in a hurry.

Now we have a union. We've been trying to organize for the past three years but just last week we had an election and, of course, we won. Starting last summer we had a committee which met every week and asked people to come to the meeting to express their feelings about their jobs and whether or not we needed a union.

I was interested. I thought they needed a union there. I don't have 35 or 40 years to work like some, but I thought if I could do something to help the people who will be there a long time it would give me a lot of satisfaction. I have so many little things to do at home and I do some little things in the community. I'm a member of the First Methodist Church and also a member of the Women's Society of Christian Service. I do hospital escort service when I'm called. It takes an awful lot of time and strength, you know, to do all this running. But anyway I was asked and I seldom ever say no. Of course, the longer I went the more interested I got.

Workers Enthusiastic About Union

We had speakers come in and talk about union work. That helped convince a lot of people. How much help it had been to the workers in other places and the good benefits the union provided. Everyone seemed very enthusiastic and we didn't have any trouble winning.

The hospital had meetings and sent out letters telling workers about the good benefits the hospital was giving. They said these were the best anywhere – but we'd never heard about them before. They were curious about us trying to get the union in. They put up posters saying "Vote No".

At the election I was chosen to be an observer representing the union. There was a representative from the hospital and a woman who conducted the election. It was very educational. My job was to sit there and check off the people who came in to vote. We counted the votes when everyone was finished. It was 85 to 47. Everybody was *very* happy. I was so happy for the people who really did the organizing – they worked so hard.

After the election, of course, we got another letter – from Mr. Womer, the hospital director – saying how disappointed *they* were. And I'm sure they were. They spent an awful lot of money trying to keep the union out. I would have liked to see that money go to someone who was ill or the elderly.

I think the union will be able to change some of the working conditions here. In the past they moved people around a lot. Before anything else happens at all – they'll have to do some bargaining to negotiate a contract.

Readers!

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PRAYER OF DESPAIR

MESKILL is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he leadeth me beside the still factories, he maketh me to lie down on the park bench;
he restoreth my doubts in the Republican Party.

He guideth me to the path of unemployment for the party's sake.
I fear evil for thou art against me; thou annointest me with taxes
so that my expenses runneth over my income,
surely poverty and hard living shall follow and I shall live in a rented house
forever.

Five thousand years ago, Moses said, "Park your camel, pick up your shovel, mount your ass, and I will lead you to the promised land."

Five thousand years later, Franklin Roosevelt said, "Lay down your shovel, sit on your ass, light up a Camel, this is the promised land."

Today MESKILL will tax your shovel, sell your camel, kick you in the ass, and tell you there is no promised land.

P.S.
I am glad I am an American.
I am glad that I am free, but I wish I was a little dog
and MESKILL was a tree.

Classified

Ah, ha! You need some greeting cards on which to write short notes. For handsome cards at reasonable prices, please call Ruth at 624-4602.

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